WENDELL POST

Vol. VIII No. 2 July – Aug 1985 25¢

Gladys Powling Retires after 25 years as Wendell Postmaster

On June 1, 1985, Gladys Powling was officially retired as Post Master of Wendell. The following is her story of these years.

In early Oct. 1959, I was asked to assume the position of postmaster at Wendell. I had 45 minutes to answer or Wendell would be without a post office. On Oct. 30, 1959, a knock at my door on a cold rainy day, produced a Postal Inspector named Joseph Moore, who said he had come to install me as Postmaster. I raised my right hand and it happened just that quickly. He returned shortly thereafter that day, with the stamps, money and account book, and informed me that the total of the reciept page should equal the total of the disbursement page and that was my indoctrination as a postmaster! Really quite different from the orientation postmasters have to go through today.

In 1959, I had 32 customers. There were misgivings of some and pats on the back from lots of people. Through the years, I have seen Wendell grow from the smallest 4th class office in Massachusetts to a 3rd class office - (EAS-11).

The original post office when I took over was in my dining room. The boxes

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Gladys Powling with her husband, [illegible], and well-wishers at a reception held in her honor on Sunday, June 30th.

Annual Town Meeting Approves Budget, Buys Police Cruiser

In two sessions, on May 9 and May 16, the Annual Town Meeting approved a $531,-531.02 budget for fiscal year 1986. The highway department is the major beneficiary of a 9.6 increase in the general government expenditures.

The increase in the police department budget was due entirely to a $2,000 appropriation for a used police cruiser. $1,000 was voted for maintenance and other expenses associated with the cruiser.

Wendell's highway department, newly organized under the highway commission, will have nearly $10,000 extra to operate on in the upcoming year. After a year of rebuilding its equipment inventory, the focus will be on more money for the summer and winter maintenance budgets. Other increases in this department go to increases in salary.

A 15% increase in the school budget signals a rebuilding year, in part, and increases in school enrollments in general. The Swift River Elementary School, constrained by the impact of Proposition 2½ and tight money in general for several years, kept its increases low. For the '85-86 school year the program will have an extra $24,000 to work with. School officials told the town meeting that this means improvement in programs that have operated with short money for years. The regional school increase mostly reflects growth in Wendell enrollment in these programs.

One new expense this year is payment on a loan for the DPW's new dump truck. This was compensated for by a reduction in the stabilization fund appropriation.

A major expense was avoided by the town meeting when it passed over a request for $50,000 to repair Lockes Hill #1. After lengthy discussion, an alternate article to discontinue the affected section of road was carried. The meeting also defeated a motion for the town to join the Cpunty Waste Disposal/Incinerator Plan.

After spirited discussion, resolutions on a Peace Tax Fund bill and U.S. military action in Central America were passed. Passed too were acceptance of a Management Plan by the Millers River Watershed Council (with reservations) and money for a historical survey of the town. The town asked the Watershed Council to issue an addendum to its report addressing the issue of highway development along the Millers' banks.

In all, 31 articles were acted upon at this year's meeting.

Arch St Bridge Repairs Oked at Special Meeting

A scant quorum of voters at a special town meeting June 13 authorized an agreement between the Erving and Wendell boards of selectmen to repair the Arch St. bridge using local funds for engineering studies and federal funds for the actual construction. Local funds will amount to $58,000, of which $29,000 will be paid by Wendell, and $110,000 by the federal government.

The bridge serves six properties--including two camps and a house--along a road sometimes called Frank Day Rd., which runs a mile along the Millers River toward the

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WENDELL POST

Vol. VIII No. 2

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Swift River Pre-School

The Swift River Pre-School Fundraising Committee sucessfully raised the $1540 that it agreed to, for the 84-85 Pre-school year, and even went a little over the goal.

At the graduation ceremony, other gifts were made. Teachers Janet Ducharme and Sandy Waters were presented with $100 that was collected from the pre-schoolers' parents to buy supplies for next year and a sign was made by Mary and Adin Gillman (wood donated by Rugg Millwork of Greenfield). The sign will be hung by the beginning of the next school year. The Pre-school thanks everyone who helped to make it a very special and memorable year.

The next school year will bring a repeat as the parents again have to raise $1540. They ask residents to watch for the Pre-school booths at the New Salem and Wendell Old Home Days. (July 20 and Aug. 10) Also Lin Diemand has again agreed to do hair-cutting at Wendell Old Home Day. Maybe a chicken bar-b-q, raffles, bake sales and other fundraisers will help reach the goal. For any information, call Len Strauss at 544-6926.

Anne Diemand

Front page art by Susan DunLany; page 9 by Nancy Cole

May 1985 Appointments

May, 1985 Appointments
by Board of Selectmen

Conservation Commission
Neal Feltman

Recreation Committee
Michael Idoine
Theodore Lewis
James P. Slavas

Board of Appeals
Dean Bennett

Historical Commission
Emma Cappalluzzo
Jean Forward
Jean Weber

Council on Aging
Elizabeth Scully
Elsie Diemand
Gladys Powling

Clerk for Selectboard
Regina Howarth

Town Counsel
John Gates

Dog Officer
Kenneth Wing

Inspector of Buildings
Harold Burnett
Asst. Thomas Ploof

Town Hall Custodian
Dolores I. Williston

Civil Defense Director
Albert Diemand
Asst. Emma Cappelluzzo

Dutch Elm Control and Gypsy Moth Supervisor
Theodore E. Lewis

Hazardous Waste Co-ordinator
Nina Keller

Right to Know Co-ordinator
James P. Slavas

Births

Congratulations to Helen and Edward Boland on the birth of their son, Travis Edward, born June 22 at 2:17 pm at Franklin County Hospital, Greenfield He was 8 lbs. 8oz.

Land Transfers

3-29 William Carroll to Karen, Sally, and J. Milton Wilder buildings and 3.6 A on Davis Turn Rd.

4-4 Barron and Joanne Littlefield to William Carroll, Jr. 26.575 A and buildings Mormon Hollow Rd.

4-5 Roger and Lea Chapman to Raymond and Shirley Wasielewski, 2 A and buildings on Mormon Hollow Rd.

4-12 Virginia Davis to Gail Momnie, 8 A and buildings on Montague Rd.

Call for a free consultation

Dr. Lloyd J. Lachow
Chiropractor

62 Federal Street
Greenfield, Ma. 01301

By Appointment
(413) 774-3348

The Wendell Ladies Aid held a successful "Take a Dad to Dinner" evening on June 15. The town hall was transformed into a homey atmosphere with bouquets of daisies, children's laughter and the sound of friends talking. The Ladies Aid served over one hundred people generous portions of baked ham, mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, homemade rolls and a wonderful selection of homemade pies for dessert.

Fire Log

4-15 train derailment
4-24 chimney fire at Connolly residence on Farley Rd.
5-17 tree fire on Sears Rd.
9-9 garbage pile fire at Elwin Moon residence on West Rd.

Police Log

4-11 Mass. Electric truck hit dog belonging to Gill Mackenzie
5-4 Dowdy's reported vandalism on their property
5-31 contact Dept. of Human Services regarding family living in car at condemmed house
6-14 Jamrock repoted trailer broken into and vandalized
6-15 two young children lost in woods
6-17 Clinton Smith reported 10 speed bike stolen from his yard
6-19 Louis Feldman reported lost poney.
6-24 Ronnie Grogan reported a pickup truck off the road; owner not identified.

Letter to Taxpayers

Dear Wendell Taxpayers,

The Wendell Selectboard, Assessors, Treasurer, Accountant, and Finance Committee join with the Tax Collector to encourage you to pay your voluntary tax bill request to ease the Town's current cash flow crunch. The situation has become serious and we urge your help soon with this problem.

In June, the Selectboard signed a $100,000 loan so that the Town Treasurer can pay bills this summer. Interest on this loan will cost town money and eventually the taxpayers, too.

This difficulty is a result, in part, of the new and demanding work needed to have our tax lists approved by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue. Many town officers have worked long hours to get this tax process back on a smooth track.

In dollars and cents it means that we have collected $3000 for fiscal year 1985 at a time when we would usually have gathered $200,000. The arithemetic shows that our recent borrowing would be unnecessary if this amount had been received by now.

It is important for the Towns cash flow to be restored. It would be wise for taxpayers to make this voluntary payment now and not wait until November when two years taxes shall be due.

Thank you for helping.

Sincerely,

Jim Slavas, Theodore Lewis, Michael Idoine
Wendell Board of Selectmen

Development Dollars & Sense: Part I

Suburbanization Threatens Wendell

The Planning Board has accepted 70 new building lots during the last 18 months. That piece of information, even more than the 25 or so new houses that have been started since then, worries those who like Wendell foremost for its rural look and self-determining character. It heralds a building boom that has the capacity to quickly add a third more houses at the whim of outside development pressures and transform Wendell as we know it into a sentimental memory.

"I think it's going to happen, don't you?" asked David Wilder. His board of Health presides over the procedure for percolation tests and the design of septic systems which, perhaps more than anything else, limit where and how many houses may be built on Wendell's thin soils.

"The potential is there," agrees Tom Wetherby, of the planning board who signed the rash of subdivision applications. "If it meets the frontage (100 ft.) and acreage (2 acres) requirements, we sign the application" as, except in unusual cases, the law says they must.

Tom says he isn't very comfortable with this. His solution, given the tools available to his board, he says "is obvious: the thing is to increase the frontage and acreage requirements." These were set only three years ago when the town voted on a set of zoning bylaws, its first. "Maybe we can go to 200 ft. frontage on an accepted Town road. And I think we could go to 3 acres or maybe even 4 without the state calling it snob zoning. But you have to justify the change for the state.

The selectboard's heart is in the same place. To avoid excessive road maintenance costs it is cataloging the stretches of back roads that are currently unmaintained with the intention of bringing an article before town meeting to ask if maintenance should be formally discontinued. This will reduce the potential for building on out-of-the-way parcels where the extension of town services would be expensive. The selectboard is worried about the town's finances, which are already under inordinate strain and which will be strained further if current state attempts to devalue state forestland are successful. In that event, the state's payments in lieu of taxes will drop by as much as $54,000, a shock to budgeting that would be worse than Proposition 2½.

The dollar sign underlies a lot of the forces that come to bear on the question of Wendell's - or any town's - development. Of course it underlies the decision by the owner of a parcel to sell or subdivideand sell, particularly in the case where taxes have increased dramatically as Wendell's did in the mid-seventies. The cost of land - low here by state standards - helps determine the attractiveness of building lots to buyers, along with the setting, distance from jobs and quality of town services. Even after one or two sales - to a real estate agent, say, and then to a developer - the price of lots in Wendell can still attract first-time homeowners, those who are looking for the most inexpensive building lots.

Even traditional political conservatives who tend to be more development-minded than the so-called liberally inclined, have problems with unchecked development of the Town. One reason is that more residents means more restrictions, less freedom for the individual in matters like building, hunting, snowmobiling, influencing town affairs, privacy, foraging for blueberries and just plain roaming. Another important one is that - tough as Wendell's finances now are - more development will likely make it even tougher to balance the budget. That's because residences for young families tend to be a net revenue loss to the town. Schoolchildren, with the requirements that they be taught and bussed, are expensive... especially so in this case, since the addition of only a few more to the Swift River School may force the construction of an addition to that building.

Knowing this fact, some towns have undertaken to attract industry. Industry, with its large tax assessments, is a net tax profit for a town, in theory at least. But many towns which went down that road found, to their chagrin, costs cancelled out the gains and more. The residential development stimulated by the low taxes and nearby jobs - together with unexpected problems like crime, pollution and tax delinquincy (the accompaniments of rapid change, dense population, and industry) burst the bubble of a cheap lunch. Worst of all was the gradual evaporation of the townspeople's sense of community, a spiritual tragedy as well as the loss of the most efficient way of governing.

"Development," in the peculiar American sense of the word, isn't always good for a town's pocketbook...whatever it may do for the developer's).

There is a belief among town managers and others whose business it is to know and control these things that development in American cities and towns is influenced by large economic factors mostly beyond a town's control. The thing that can be controlled, they say, is the nature of the growth - whether it is expressed willy-nilly, at the whim of the developers, or by a master plan created by minds sensitive to the town's character and that of a majority of its inhabitants.

This theory presumes growth. It doesn't or can't address the real question in Wendell's case: how to keep the Town's character when any significant amount of growth at all will rob the chief characteristics -- spaciousness, self-sufficiency, favoring nature in the balance with man.

When the gaps between houses along Wendell's woodsy roads are closed by new, city-powered houses, when Town Hall needs a graded formal parking lot, when cars stream along the Depot Road and Lockes Village Road at eight and five and the door of a new bedroom town swings for its tenants, something special will have been lost forever. The freedom to buy and sell property will have been well served, and that's basic, but Wendell's character and potential as an invididualistic town apart from the crowd will have undergone a profound change.

Jonathan von Ranson

(next issue: ideas for solution)

COUNTY HELPS OUT--Chester F. Zaik of the county assessor's office visits Wendell to help prepare an appeal of a crushing tax decision by the State Department of Revenue regarding state forestland.

Town Will Appeal

Wendell will be appealing the recent budget-crusher decision of the state Department of Revenue to reduce the valuation of state-owned land in Wendell. Rather than sit idly by, Wendell is about to file an appeal with the state Appellate Tax Board for relief from the projected loss of $54,000 in payments-in-lieu-of-taxes resulting from a new method of land assessment by the state.

The County assessor's office is helping Wendell file the appeal. It is also helping file appeals for Hawley and Warwick, the two other towns hurt by the method, which Chester F. Zaik, consultant from the County, calls "a mass-appraisal method." Zaik was in Wendell June 27 to review figures and get papers signed. He explained that the state has taken to treating itself the way some towns treat large landowners: with a discount for large holdings. Previously it provided a flat per-acre payment-in-lieu-of-taxes.

The result penalizes the towns with the most state land and reportedly actually benefits those with smaller state holdings.

Calculations at the projected tax rate of around $15 per thousand dollars of valuation show that a private landowner with inholdings (away from road frontage) annually pays about $6.00 per acre($400 valuation x .015 equals $6.00). The state, which formerly paid $13 per acre, would instead pay only about $5.50 per acre on its approximately 7,000 acres in Wendell.

One factor which hurt Wendell is that the town's real estate values haven't risen as fast as they have in some other areas of the state, according to Jessie Wetherby of the board of assessors.

Every five years the state revalues its land. This year is one of those revaluations.

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544-3529
Edward Judice
544-2739

Wickett Pond Rd. Development Raises Neighborhood Worries

Two residents of Wickett Pond Road voiced concern at a recent meeting of the board of health about a planned development on that road. Both Danette Reynolds and Marion Herrick are concerned about possible drinking water contamination from house lots recently accepted by the planning board as part of an eight-lot subdivision created by Mountain Lake Properties of North Adams.

The subdivision is on land formerly belonging to Ray Ducharme, Sr., now living in Florida. It was on the market for over a year, town officials say, then things happened quickly. It was sold to a real estate agent, then almost immediately to the developer. Then, within the month of February of this year, all seven present owners closed on their lots. One of the owners, Michael Wing, has already applied for a building permit on his lot in the vicinity of Montague Road.

Ms. Reynolds and Mrs. Herrick said they were assured that the percolation testing was done properly and, at least as far as the board of health regulations were concerned, the issuance of a building permit by the building inspector was in order.

However, tempers flared at the meeting, preventing either board members or the citizens from coming away satisfied. "Our well is downgradient from those house sites, Ms. Reynolds said, "and no one can be sure it won't be contaminated." She has studied hydrology, and said it is known that surface groundwater can contaminate deeper supplies.

The percolation test for the Wing lot is the only one on which the board of health has acted at the time of this writing. It was conducted Oct. 18, 1984 by F.A. Filios registered sanitarian for Todd Brown of Mountain Lake Properties. Filios' address is Pelham Rd., Amherst. The test found water seeped away at a rate of 3.33 minutes per inch at a depth of 33 inches. It also said the test pit was dug to a "depth of 72'" (sic) and that the water table was at a depth of 7½ ft.

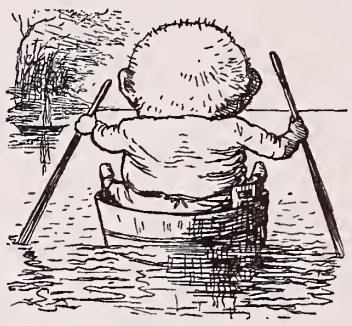
Board of Health records also showed the spetic system, designed for Mr. Wing by F. Deane Avery Associates of Greenfield. Andrew F. Wait, registered professional engineer of the firm, did the actual design.

Except for Mr. Wing, son of Kenneth Wing, all the purchasers of the lots are from out of town. Deeds show sizes of the lots range from 2.9 acres to 5.7 acres. One purchaser bought a double lot for a total of over 11 acres.

Asked if the board of health can, at its discretion, use the percolation test results of the developer, Jesse Wetherby, clerk, said, "but if the board isn't happy, it can order the test to be done over. Many test their lots; we go through them and if we find one we do not like, we make them redo it."

In regards to the time of the test, the board has issued regulations which encourage owners to perform percolation tests between April 1 and June 30. "But it's up to the board's discretion," said Mrs. Wetherby. "This one was done in the fall, which was wet last year. If it perked then, it's going to perk anytime."

Jonathan von Ranson



New Wendell Residents

We would like to introduce ourselves to you... We have recently moved from Cambridge to your beautiful town of Wendell. We have looked long and hard and have finally found a house and town we would like to call home. We have settled (almost!) on a lovely corner of town just up from the intersection of Lockes Hill Road and Jennison Road. Our family includes Leah, 3½, Silas, 12, Lynne, Doug and Kitty-Cushion.

Doug, a contractor, has 15 years' experience renovating, building and designing throughout Vermont and Massachusetts. He provided consultation to owner/builder/remodelers. He is looking for people to work with and, just as important, to play music with. Doug's particular love is playing bluegrass and old-timey fiddle.

As for myself, I am looking for a counseling position in some type of local community setting. I also teach childbirth preparation classes and provide labor support.

People have been very friendly to us and we are happy to be here. Drop by and say hello anytime.

Meet our housemates, Katie, Michael and baby Luke Bloomfield, new to Wendell too.

Lynne Davis
Doug Tanner
Lockes Hill Road
544-2067

P.S. Happy to share in child care, babysitting, and be supportive to other parents.

OLD HOME DAYS
'ON THE COMMON'

Wendell Old Home Day Schedule of Events

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
August 10, 1985

9:00 am	Third Annual "5 Mile Dash"	
10:00 am	Parade	
11:00 am	Jody Scalise	
12-5 pm	Music:	Lester Scafidi
		Bruce Wilson
		Tonya Nestico
		and more!
5:30 pm	Chicken Bar-B-Q	

Also throughout the day: Remnant sale, money hunt, balloons, bake sales, crafts, haircutting by Lin Diemand, raffles, friends, dancing and much more.
COME AND HELP MAKE OLD HOME DAY SPECIAL!

New Salem's Old Home Day

Once agian it's that time of year when a few of us gather together--a bit more frequently than earlier on in the year--to pull together the last details of yet another Old Home Day. And once again this year's celebration of friends and neighbors coming together looks as promising and fun-filled as last year's.

Most of the traditional events are scheduled, and the Band Concert will return this year to fill the Common with everyone's favorites from mid to late afternoon. Ongoing activities will include Art, Craft nd Historical Exhibits, Library Book and Church Sales, Children's Games and Rides, and lots of visiting and relaxation.

Plan to bring a picnic or buy a chicken barbecue dinner to end the day's events, then join us for an evening which promises to delight everyone. The Historical Society is sponsoring "Quabbin - The Valley That Was," a slide show by Jeff Bubar. Donation: $2 for adults; $1 for children, at 7:30 pm.

A schedule of the day's events follows - so check it out and be sure to put July 20th aside on your calendars. Support New Salem's Old Home Day, and have a great time doing it!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

10:00	Registration for Footrace
10:30	Exhibits Open
10:30	Ben Stacey Family Footrace
11:00	Lumbermen's Contest
11:45	Parade
12:30	Waffles the Clown
12:30	Volleyball
1:30	Children's Contest
2:00	Egg Catching Contest
2:00	Softball Game
2:30	Band Concert
4:30	Academy Alumni Meeting
5:30	Town Picnic and Chicken Barbecue
7:30	"Quabbin - The Valley That Was" slide show by Jeff Bubar

DON'T FORGET TO VISIT THE GOLDEN AGER'S TABLE ON OLD HOME DAY.... WE'LL HAVE REMNANTS, HANDMADE ARTICLES AND BAKED GOODS FOR YOU.

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Next Post Info.

Next Issue: Sept. / Oct.

Meeting: Aug. 12th - 7:30 pm at von Ransons

Deadline: Aug. 26th

Please submit stories, photos, etc. by deadline to Wendell Country Store.

Celebrate Growing Older

Greenfield Community College is sponsoring and coordinating with county agencies and organizations a Celebration of Growing Older The Celebration will kick off at the Franklin County Fair in September and continue through October with a full schedule of county-wide events.

The Celebration is a response to an awareness that the fastest-growing segment of our national population are men and women over age 85. With one out of every five residents over age 65, Franklin County has a higher proportion of elderly in its population than other counties in the state. It is known as the rest home capitol of Massachusetts.

Events in the "Celebration" will involve humor, health and history as ways of examining our attitudes and expectations about growing older. Great care has been taken to ensure that the events will appeal to all age groups from elementary and college students through middle age and senior citizens.

Highlights will include an appearance by U.S. Representative Barney Frank and his mother Elsie, who will share experiences and issues related to aging. Mark Twain impersonator William McLinn will reflect on the "Golden Years," and a program for children on dealing with older family members will be on loan from the Children's Museum of Boston. Special films, exhibits, radio and cable television shows will also be available.

Area churches, civic organizations, and schools have been contacted for ideas and suggestions for programs and exhibits, some of which will be made available to area elementary and high schools.

"The goal of the 'Celebration' is to inform and entertain," said Louise Minks, project coordinator. "We're hoping to get an enthusiastic response from the community."

Groups and individuals who are interested in providing resources for the Celebration of Growing Older should contact Minks at 774-3131, ext.313.

May Sarton, well-known poet and novelist, will speak at the Athol Historical Society on Sunday, September 8 at 3:00 p.m. The talk will be sponsored by the Athol Public Library, and is free to the public.

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Maple Valley Changes It's Face

Wendell residents were introduced to the "new" Maple Valley School at an open house on June 21 at the school. A spaghetti dinner and entertainmnet by Jeff and Judy Bauman and Fred Sweitzer helped draw some 80-100 neighbors to mingle with the school's staff and tour new and renovated facilities.

In less than six months of affiliation with DeSisto Schools, an umbrella corporation with private schools in Stockbridge,MA and Howey in the hills, FL, Maple Valley has renovated a former barn into a new kitchen and two-level dining hall, and converted the former cafeteria complex into offices and a beautiful student lounge. The building that housed the administrative offices has become a classroom building. Landscaping, including new walkways and plantings contributes a spit-and-polish impression to the school from the street. This is unaccustomed, for while it was regularly painted, Maple Valley has always seemed well-worn.

The school is on its way to doubling its population of 13-16 year olds in a stage from its present 32 to a total of 60. Maple Valley is accepted under Mass. chapter 766, which covers special emotional, educational, or behavioral needs. To date, boys have always predominated, but plans now call for an evening-out of the enrollment between boys and girls. A new girls dorm and a new classroom wing are planned.

"There is lots of resistance to doing anything to the school," said Michael DeSisto of Stockbridge, who heads DeSisto Schools "People say you're giving the kids something better than they've got at home, and you're wasting the taxpayers' money." He nodded assent when someone commented, "That's part of the trouble: some of them have so little to be proud of at home."

The new student lounge, adjacent to the administrative offices in the old farmhouse, provides an example of the lengths to which the new collaboration is going to improve the quality of life for the students. It contains comfortable overstuffed furniture, coffee tables and floor lamps with shades that give off a homey glow, set on wide-board pine floors polished to a blush. While traditional in one sense, this is not traditional decor for a school for teenagers with special needs, and in fact, it contrasts with the dormitory, office and classroom sections of the school, which are functional if not austere in decor, sometimes bearing the scars of temper tantrums by the students. "The kids call the new lounge, 'Grandma's Room'," said DeSisto, who could not conceal his pride in the room and slightly old-fashioned decor, "and you don't mess up in Grandma's house." A staff member showing the room commented, "If someone does something bad in here, the policy may be that the whole student body can't use it for two days."

The school's executive director, Mitchell Kosh, meanwhile, was everywhere - talking animatedly with guests in the yard or making clam sauce in the kitchen. Kosh helped arrange the sale of Maple Valley's real estate to DeSisto Schools, and expects a beneficial cross-fertilization between the organizations on an informal and perhaps educational level. Kosh and DeSisto are friends; they share a similar philosophy of growth and education for young people; and even more than the facilities, their high spirits and energy gave the focus to the gathering.

Jonathan von Ranson

Open House at Maple Valley School, with Judy Gruppenhoff, Dottie Cleveland, Susan DunLany and Christine Heard in the foreground.

Summer Program New Salem Library

Children Age Pre-school to 3rd Grade

Wednesday Mornings 10 AM

June 12 - Films - 34 mins.
Ben and Me
Big Red Barn
Winnie the Pooh and the Blustery Day

June 19 - Story Hour - Jane Marshall

June 26 - Films - 47 mins.
Blueberrie for Sal
Cape for Sale
Broderick
Winnie the Pooh and Honey Tree

July 3 - Story Hour - Jane Marshall

July 10 - Films - 48 mins.
Circus Baby
Curious George Rides a Bike
Gallant Little Taylor
Fisherman and His Wife
Winnie the Pooh Discovers Seasons

July 17 - Story Hour - Jane Marshall

July 24 - Films - 53 mins.
Noah's Ark with Mr. Magoo
Winnie the Pooh

July 31 - Story Hour - Jane Marshall

August 7 - To be announced

August 14 - Films - 52 mins.
Grasshopper and the Ant
Mickey's Trailer
Tortoise and the Hare
Winnie the Pooh and Tigger Too

August 21 - Story Hour - Jane Marshall

August 28 - Films - 61 mins.
Paddington Goes to the Movies
Paul Bunyan
Dorothy in the Land of Oz

Wendell Directory ~1985

Fire: 4-3412 Poison Control: 1-800-682-9211 Police: 4-7448

A

ASSESSORS
Gail Bardsley 4-8825
Pliny A. Stebbins 4-3970
Jessie E. Wetherby 4-6451

CLERK TO ASSESSORS
Marion Herrick 4-6373

B

BEAR MTN. PRESERVATION ASSOC.
Anne Zak 4-6801

BOARD OF APPEALS
Dean Bennett 4-3067
Claire Stewart 4-6055
James Woodward 4-3630

BOARD OF HEALTH
Virginia Schmil 4-2924
David Walsh 4-7409
David E. Wilder 4-2773

CLERK FOR BOARD OF HEALTH
Jessie E. Wetherby 4-6451
(Regular meetings held 2nd Tues. of the month, 7:30 pm at Town Hall.)

BOARD OF REGISTRARS
Maurice Cole 4-2046
Anna M.C.B. Hartjens (Clerk) 4-6052
Inez Lewis 4-6951
Belinda Parsons 4-2066

C

CEMETERY COMMISSION
Daniel Bacigalupo 4-2336
Thomas Bardsley 4-8825
Minnie Bacigalupo 4-2336

CIVIL DEFENSE DIRECTORS
Albert Diemand 4-3806
Emma Cappelluzzo 4-3583

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Neal Peltman 4-7416

F

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Bruce Cohen 4-7537
(Regular meeting held every Tues. night Nov. - May 7, 7:30 pm at Town Hall.)

FIRE DEPARTMENT
Everett Ricketts, Chief 4-3494
Harry S. Williston, Deputy 4-6951
Tom Bardsley
Kathy-Ann Becker
Anne Diemand
Edward Hebert
Larry Marlowe
Bob Gallaghar
Dannette Reynolds
David White
Karla Wood

BRUSH FIRE FIGHTERS
Josiah Wilder
Jeff Willard

RED PHONE OPERATORS
Jackie Ricketts
Del Williston
Orange Fire Dept.

DEPUTY FOREST WARDENS
Jackie Ricketts 4-4394
Del Williston 4-6951
Harry Williston 4-6951

FIRE STATION
TO REPORT A FIRE 4-3412
Station phone 4-3500

FRANKLIN REG. TRANS. AUTHORITY REP.
Deb Radway Wed. am 4-3395

G

GOLDEN AGERS
Edna Lauro, Pres. 4-3457
Virginia Wheeler, Sec. 659-3743

H

P

PAIRING PROJECT CONTACTS
Anne Diemand 4-6111
Sylvia Wetherby 4-6146

PLANNING BOARD
Thomas Wetherby, Chairman 4-6146
Raymond Avery 4-3338
Myron Becker 4-2086
Janet Burnstein
(Regular meetings held on 1st and 3rd Mon., 7:30 pm at Town Hall.)

CHIEF OF POLICE
Edward Chase 4-3554

OFFICERS
Harold Burnett
Theles J. Blackbird
William Facey
Robert Hogerheide
Robert McCloud
Jessie Wetherby

DEPARTMENT PHONE 4-7448

BLUE PHONE OPERATORS
Florrie Blackbird
Joan Burnett
Mandy Chase
Linda Facey
Nancy Hogerheide

Q

QUABBIN DIST. COON HUNTERS ASSOC.
Daniel Bacigulupo 4-2336

R

ROAD COMMISSION
Jay Blackbird, Chairman 4-2069
Joseph Hartjens 4-6052
Steve Lelito

T

TAX COLLECTOR
Judith Wilder 4-2773

TOWN ACCOUNTANT
Harry Williston 4-6951

TOWN CLERK
Anna M.C.B. Hartjens 4-6052

TOWN COUNSEL
John Gates Office 413-774-4331
Home 413-683-9557

TOWN HALL CUSTODIAN
Del Williston 4-6951

TOWN TREASURER
Florence Blackbird 4-2069

TOWN HALL 4-3395

TREE WARDEN
Daniel Bacigalupo 4-2336

V

VETERANS AGENT
Alan Baldwin 4-3509

W

WENDELL ARTS COUNCIL
Phyllis Lawrence, Chairperson 413-367-2175
Anne Diemand 4-6111
Pat Judice 4-3529
Teri Nelson Koehler 4-7446
Brenda Vincent 4-3981

WENDELL COUNTRY STORE
Mon. - Sat. 8 am - 8 pm
Sun. 9 am - 4 pm

WENDELL DEMOCRATIC COMMISSION
Kathy Becker, Chairperson 4-2086
Jean Weber, Secretary 4-3583

Michael Idaine 4-2623

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Neal Feltman 4-7416
Charles Smith

CONSTABLE
Joseph P. Hartjens 4-6052

COUNCIL OF AGING
Gladys Powling 4-6322
Elsie Diemand 4-2762
Elizabeth Scully 4-3142

D

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL MGMT. 4-3939

DOG OFFICER
Kenneth Wing 4-3323

DUMP CUSTODIAN
Parker Cleveland 4-2668

DUMP HOURS: Tues. 12-6
Thurs. 12-6
Sat. 9-5

DUTCH ELM & GYPSY MOTH SUPERVISION
Ted Lewis 4-3329

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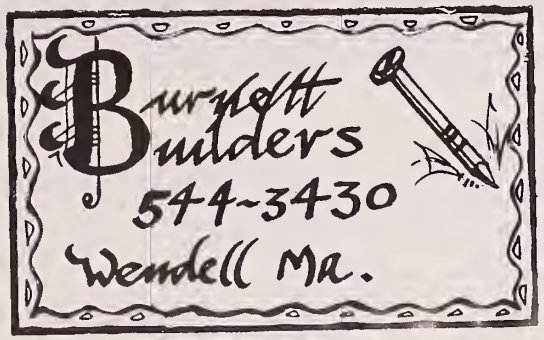


H

HAZARDOUS WASTE COORDINATOR
Nina Keller 4-2857

HEALTH AGENT EPIDEMIOLOGIST
Jessie Wetherby 4-6451

HEALTH AGENT INSPECTOR
Rosalie Rosser 4-6850

HIGHWAY DEPT. FOREMAN
Ronald C. Grogan 4-3735

I

INSPECTOR OF ANIMALS AND STABLES
Donald Richardson 4-2348

INSPECTOR OF BUILDINGS
Harold Burnett 4-3430

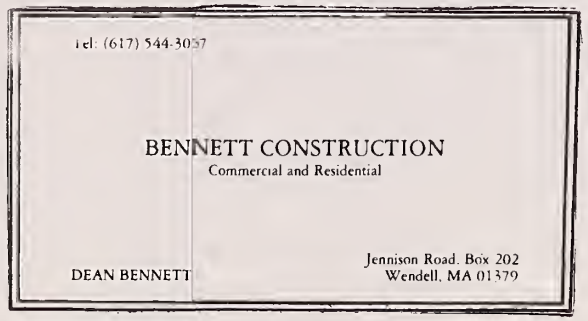
INSPECTOR OF ELECTRIC WIRING
(Vacant)

L

LADIES AID
Anne Diemand, Pres. 4-6111
Clare Green, V. Pres. 4-7421
Virginia Wheeler, Sec. 659-3743
Florie Blackbird, Treas. 4-2069

M

MODERATOR
Kathy Becker 4-2086



Steve Lelito

S

SCHOOLS
SUPT. OF SCHOOLS
Len Lubinsky 659-3337

Mahar 4-2542
Maple Valley 4-6913
Swift River,
Len Strauss Principal 4-6926
Swift River Pre-School 4-7467
Franklin County Tech. 413-863-9561

SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Swift River:
Joe Diemand, Chairman 4-6670
Linda Facey 4-7178
Christine Heard 4-2282
Jeff Willard 4-6325

Mahar Rep.:
Cheryl Richardson 4-2348
(Regular meetings held 1st Thurs., 7:30 pm at Swift River School.)

SCOUTING
Brownie Leaders:
Trudy Berkowitz 4-7558
Jane Schoenberg 4-7532

SELECTBOARD
Jim Slavas, Chairman 413-367-2175
Michael Idoine 4-2623
Theodore E. Lewis 4-3329

CLERK FOR SELECTBOARD
Regina Howarth
(Regular meetings held on 1st and 3rd Tues., 7:00 pm at Town Hall.)

WENDELL CONCERNED CITIZENS
Michael Idoine 4-2623
Anne Zak 4-6801

WENDELL FREE LIBRARY
Trustees:
Laurel Wilson, Chairperson 4-2232
Marion Herrick 4-6373
Pam Lavoie 4-6400
Judy Pratt 4-2143
Margaret Stebbins 4-3970
Sylvia Wetherby 4-6146
Judith Wilder 4-2773

LIBRARIAN
Lois Carey 4-6992

LIBRARY HOURS

Summer	Winter
Tues. 2-4 pm	Tues. 2-4 pm, 6-8 pm
Wed. 12-4 pm, 6-8 pm	Wed. 12-4 pm, 6-8 pm
Sat. 10-Noon	

WENDELL OLD HOME DAY CONTACTS
Lisa Aubin 4-7636
Anne Diemand 4-6111

WENDELL POST OFFICE
Wendell Center Hours:
Mon. - Fri. 7 - 11:30 am, 2:30 -6 pm
Sat. 8 - Noon

Wendell Depot Hours:
Mon. - Fri. 7 - 11 am, 3:30 - 6 pm
Sat. 7 - 11 am

WENDELL POST
Anne Diemand 4-6111
Brenda Vincent 4-3981

WENDELL STATE FOREST 659-3797

WORK PERMIT
Brenda Vincent 4-3981

Gladys Powling cont' from Front Page

sat on an old chest of drawers. In about four years, we added on and had an 8'x 10' post office. Then the star route delivery st[illegible]ed and I had to open up the addition fo[illegible] we had added on.

When I entered the Postal Service, it was the old Post Office Department, and I have seen the transition to the present U. S. Postal Service.

It has been a pleasant experience working for the U. S. Postal Service and giving service to the people of Wendell.

After nearly 26 years, I feel it is time to step down for the next generation.

Gladys Powling

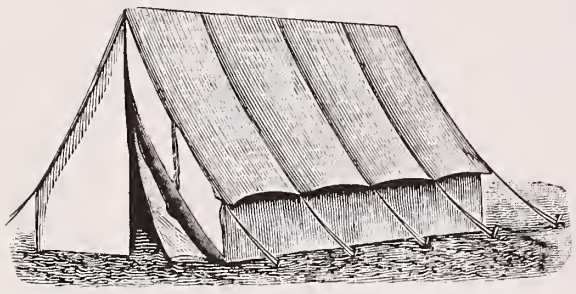
EDITORIAL NOTE:

And Gladys has done exactly that. On May 25th, her daughter Cheryl Richardson was officially instated as the new Post Master of the Wendell Post Office.

Cheryl had been Post Master Relief for the last 17 years, and Officer in Charge for the last 7 months. She applied for the position of Post Master when the job was posted at the Personnel Division of the postal system in Springfield, and was later appointed.

Best wishes to Cheryl Richardson from The Wendell Post, and many thanks to Gladys Powling for her years serving the town so well.

Camps Available



Simonne Coderre of South Deerfield has been named by the Western Massachusetts Girl Scout Council to direct day Camp Stonehenge in Leyden this summer.

The camp which serves girls in Franklin County, will offer a two-week session, July 22 to Aug. 2, Monday through Friday each wk. The program will include swimming instruction, campcraft skills, cook-outs, an optional overnight and pony or horse rides once each week. Special consultants will also be conducting nature study activities.

Girls need not be affiliated with the Girl Scout organization to attend Camp Stonehenge but must be entering grades 2 through 9 in September. Bus transportation is provided from most Franklin County communities.

Camp Sandy Brook will have a new director, Gwenn Raphael of Conway, MA when it opens for it's 35th season this summer. The camp will offer one week sessions starting July 7 and 14 and Aug. 4 and 11 and two week sessions starting July 21 and Aug. 4 for girls entering grades 2 through 12.

Special programs this year will include arts, canoeing, gourmet cooking, horseback riding, waterfront activities and two trip opportunities for older girls, a conoe trip on the Fulton Chain Lakes in the Adirondacks and a gypsy trip.

Registrations for both camps are on a first come, first served basis and will be accepted until sessions start or capacity is reached. Further information may be obtained from the Girl Scout office on Haydenville Rd Leeds.

UNDER REPAIR BY FEDS--A grant from the federal government is picking up most of the costs of repairing the Arch St. bridge ...though the town has been criticized for not doing more to try to purchase the property it services for economy reasons.

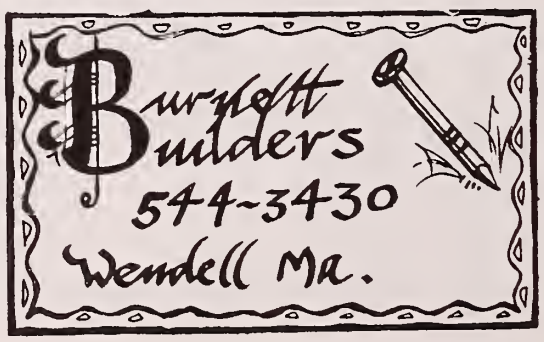
Arch St. Bridge cont' from Front Page

west. It is the joint responsibility of the two towns to repair any bridges across the river which serves as their common boundary.

At the meeting, Jonathan von Ranson raised planning and economic objections to the proposal. He said the bridge serves an out-of-the-way area that is "a kind of annex of Erving." He said it is well known as "a losing proposition for Wendell" in terms of tax revenue. He urged the town instead of repairing the bridge to use its leadership in getting the state to purchase the properties. "Two things have happened since the bridge was condemned four years ago," he said'"the Route 2 issue has been reactivated and the Department of Environmental Management has gotten funds for land acquisition."

The DEM has said it is interested in acquiring property along the Millers River.

At the same meeting, $400 was appropriated for the town recreation commission and a resolution was passed permitting the moderator to declare a recess and reschedule a future meeting if 15 minutes after the scheduled start less than 2/3 of a quorum has assembled.



Forestland 'Taxes'

$54,515 REVENUE LOSS
Stopped for now

In the second week of June, Town officials learned that the payment in lieu of taxes for the upcoming fiscal year was to be drastically cut. Because of a new valuation system and a cut in the tax rate used (the state average - lowered by prop 2½) Wendell could have lost $54,515 from this reimbursement category.

This money would have created 11% shortfall in the Town's 85-86 budget. To check the problem officials from Wendell met with Mass. Dept. of Revenue officials during a special afternoon meeting on June 19. Representatives from the assessors board, accountants office, finance committee, selectboard, school staff and school committee were among Wendell officials present. Chester Ziak, County Assessor, and Tom Scanlon, Town Auditor also took part. Gladys Powling attended as a concerned citizen.

Tom Manion, from the DOR Bureau of Assessment and Lou Haywood from the Dept's Boston Office represented the state. Chris Woodcock from Rep. Buell's office and Bill Benson, executive Director of the legislature's rural caucus were also on hand.

Mr. Manion explained to the group how Wendell's payment in lieu of taxes dropped from an expected $92,440 to $37,925. Every fifth year, the Commonwealth revalues its holdings and computes a new average tax rate (This rate is the average of all town tax rates in the state) Because of prop 2½ the average rate has dropped from $55/$1000 (in 1980) to $23/$1000 (in 1985). Manion said that the valuation of the land had risen considerably to about $400/acre. This might have offset 50+% drop in the tax rate, except the DOR applied a formula that allowed them to discount the value because they are a large landholder. The values by this formula dropped to $200/acre.

Mr. Haywood who spoke little during the meeting, said that he recognized the impact on the town and assured town officials that something would be done to replace the missing $54,515. We were then informed by Mr. Woodcock that Rep. Buell and other rural legislators had filed a supplemental budget request to make up the money this year for Wendell and some 20-30 other towns affected by similar losses. Mr. Benson said the Rural Caucus was concerned about the local aid formula in general and would add this problem to their concern. The supplemental request has passed the House and has been sent to the Senate.

At press time, the Wendell Board of Assessors is planning to appeal the valuation to the State Appelate Tax Court. Their argument centers on the formula used to set the value of the state forest holdings. If these efforts do not succeed, Wendell would have to override its budget by $48,000.

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Local Buying Clubs

In March of 1983, in an effort to keep the availability of whole and natural food in the Wendell/Warwick/Athol area, the Green Hills Co-op of buying clubs was initiated. Jaylin Dibble, who had been a co-ordinator for the newly closed Our Daily Bread Co-op in Orange, took on the task of coordinating the six to eight groups that were forming in various surrounding areas.

Western Mass. Co-op, from a large warehouse in Hadley, recently merged to form Northeast Co-ops, has been delivering bulk orders first to Wendell for distribution, and for the last eight months to Orange. Families and individuals, through a group, have been able to get a wide selection of whole grain flours and cereals, seeds, nuts, cheeses, soy products, condiments, canned goods and even organic produce. Prices compare favorably to the lowest priced grocery stores with the added benefit of having unsprayed, non-preservative items for slightly higher. Members also like the fact that they are not adding to the high-profit economic structure.

There are still several co-ops that operate from "store fronts" in Turners Falls, Shutesbury, and Amherst. But local buying club members prefer the once a month relatively simple way of ordering in bulk and sharing the distributing chores with other group members. Or do they? Order volume has been down the last few months, enough to mean a loss on the low margin Green Hills budget. Jaylin reports that last year's surplus offset this loss, and that an increase in sales of just $500 would have kept the co-op in the black this year.

"Some groups seem to have lost members to the back to urban economy movement," explained one Bear Mountain Group member. These people may be shedding the inconvenience of buying club responsibilities in favor of the ease of grocery store shopping. Many have returned to a nine-to-five job and are turning away from the so-called alternative life-style.

In the Green Hills Co-op, buying club members' monthly responsibilities include an hour and a half ordering meeting plus one job such as food pickup at the distribution point, or collating the group order and keeping financial records.

Now, as in so many cooperative ventures, the structure is being threatened by a reshuffling. Jaylin Dibble, due to other committments, has been unable to do all the coordinating. Sylvia Wetherby, who is Jaylin's assistant, and Nancy Blackmer have been working in the interim. Other group members will need to step up and fill needed positions. Coincidentally, Northeast Co-ops is trying to change the delivery day of Green Hills, a fact which is introducing more possible upheaval because of availability of delivery location and administrative help.

But co-op members who really like the buying clubs "will not let this be the end," member Mary Cunningham says. "If it means I have to do a job, I will." Sylvia is hopeful that her ready enthusiasm will be shared by other groups, too.

If Post readers are interested in joining one of the buying clubs: Rosebriar, Ital and Bear Mountain in Wendell-Orange; Athol Buying Club; South Athol; Baldwin Hill in Phillipston; Warwick, they can call either Sylvia at 544-6146 or Mary at 544-7425 for referral to a group nearby with an opening.

Susan DunLany

The Person Behind The Grapevine Wreaths

MV Photo

Always in a hurry to here or there, I was glad when I finally stopped at the little blue sign in Wendell Depot that reads simply "Grapevine wreaths", to find out about the woman who makes them.

As I choose a lawn chair, Marilyn throws a few more twigs on the morning fire. We are surrounded by hemlocks, a vegtable garden, and a chicken yard. Behind us is the sound of hammers putting a roof onto her modest new house. Since 1982, Marilyn Morin has lived in an A frame on land which used to belong to her sister. Her life style is simple and she is heading towards self-sufficiency which is why she uses no electricity. She is learning to preserve food from her garden by drying it and trys to buy as little as possible from the store.

Even though self-sufficiency is what she wants, Marilyn says "there are still things you need to exchange goods for". That is where her road stand comes in. Last year, Marilyn began selling grapevine wreaths at the end of the driveway. She says "it seems that whatever the stand brings in is enough."

The stand did very well last fall and has even attracted a few regular returning customers, Marilyn reports.

After selling mostly wreaths last fall, Marilyn said, "I felt people were saturated with grapevine wreaths so I started adding some variety to the stand." The stand, about the size of a small crafts fair booth, holds quite a collection of folk art, wooden signs, paintings and wreaths. Custom orders can also be made. "I do motifs that people like... someone might have a fettish for mushrooms or mice." One welcome sign, done for a duck lover, featured mother duck and ducklings.

Marilyn did a group of paintings on wood she called her Wendell series, which was a big success. In these she painted the buildings surrounding the town common. She plans to repeat that series soon. Now that the weather is fairer, she also plans to add pot holders and pin cushions to the stand again.

Marilyn taught herself to make her wreath through trial and error. She has always liked making crafts. She started young, making Christmas gifts for a large family. While living in Orange, she ran a store with her sister called "Cottage Crafts", but found that it didn't support her kind of lifestyle. Living in Wendell Depot, Marilyn is truly at home. She collects her wild grapevines right in the area. The wreaths are interwoven in such a way that no tying or wiring is necessary. "They last for years and stay in shape", she tells me."They only need to be updated." This can be done by changing ribbons and decorations with the seasons.

The paintings include everything from animals to a checker board to a "Welcome to my kitchen" sign. For these, Marilyn uses pine and acrylics. She likes acrylics because they dry fast and the colors are bright.

So, if you need a room brightened or if your front door is welcome sign-less or grapevine wreathless, don't be in such a hurry; stop by and see what Marilyn has to offer.

Nancy Cole

Maple Valley Open House with Judy, Jeff and Fred in background

The Wendell Country Store 544-8511

Deaths

Herman H. Hanson of North Dana and New Salem died in a Greenfield hospital on June 3. He had 76 sober years.

He barely survived a stroke in 1972. Chief Goddard of Wendell "flew" him to Greenfield. The stroke weakened his body, but Herman stayed head strong to the end.

He was a fine example of some good old values and a good example of some, not so fine.

He was an honest man from the old school. He had but one tool he did not pay for. It was borrowed from a friend who died before he could return it.

He only did excellent work and seemed to specialize in solving the most difficult problems. Bert Goddard claims the best way to get him onto a job was to suggest its impossibility. I was lucky to help him rebuild a Stanley steam engine that somebody had found in a river.

He operated an auto repair business in N. Dana. He hung the first telephone line in New Salem. He installed many water wheels in various parts of New England. He had a business making replacement parts for textile machinery. He could build a pattern and pour a mold. He set up the Barre gravel works, fixed steeples and repaired wrist watches.

If he needed a tool that had not been invented, he invented it. Bert says Herman had "a lot of smart tools."

He did not plant "posies" or spread manure.

Once he made a week's pay in a few minutes. The job required a welder who was strong and steady with both hands to make a long continueous weld around a large steam duct in a very awkward position. Characteristically, Herman took the check back to the office, so the mistake could be corrected. The boss was so glad he had finally found someone who could do the job and do it right, that the service was worth a weeks pay. No mistake. The weld held.

He had the dickens in him too. One day folks at the Post Office saw Mr. Stowell scratch and shake his head. "I've heard of people that sleep walk, but I swear I've got a pig that night flies. Every morning he's gone. There's no hole dug underneath. So I add another plank on top. And the next morning he's gone again." Herman and another boy were sneaking around at night and levering the fence up.

Herman did not suffer fools gladly. He had no patience for bad design or shoddy workmanship by people who should know better. When his mouth said "college educated engineer" or "professor", his face said "someone stepped in a fresh one." I saw him pancake a tool box with an 18 " monkey wrench because it had a bad latch - all the while managing the language quite well.

But in the case of students who did not know better, he was more than patient. "He was an inspiration, even to those least equipped," according to the Rev. Dr. Albert Welch, a co-teacher at the Academy.

Helpfulness was a big part of his heart. Once while helping him help a widow, he said "I know she can't pay, but I'll make it right with you."

Speaking of home with a reporter he explained, "They told us that the people of Boston needed water, and we wasn't so miserable a class of people as to let them go thirsty." Herman hurt in his heart, because the closest he could get to home was "in a row boat."

He could not speak about the "Titanic" without crying.

"I was fortunate" he liked to say, "to have lived the best years of my life under our best Presidents...Calvin Coolidge and Herbert Hoover.

Personally, I always thought he would die from the upset of telling a disbeliever how unions had ruined the country.

It was enlightening for me to discover that a good man could have bad opinions. Herman had a terrible bark, and no bite - like a barnacle covered cream puff. Knowing him was one of the great adventures of my life.

He served New Salem in many ways, both known and unknown, inside and outside of government. He was on active Mason and benefactor to many Rainbow girls.

He graduated from the New Salem Academy and taught there too.

He was fortunate to have married Dot Stone. They raised three girls, Marion, Gail, and Sally. They have three granddaughterss.

As Herman requested, the Reverend Raymond Cosseboom led a memorial service for his friend in the First Congregational Church of New Salem during the afternoon of June 22. A packed house heard his daughter Sally read a poem by John Ouderkirk that was inspired by the life of her "strong, stubborn and opinionated" father. Mr. Albert Welch spoke his gratitude for Herman's life and reported that they "got a long very well, even when fighting." Mrs. Althea Gilmore ablely played the old pump organ. There was a collection in the Control Congregational Church afterward.

Poetry

Second Brook Farm
(A sign found beneath the rt. 2 off ramp)

I had an oft recurring dream.
I tried to find a place
way back in time
that I had known long years ago...
A backward dream
that took me to the street
and up and down beyond the winding stream...
and all I'd find were parking lots
and buildings rising high
and people peering past me as I searched
as if I wasn't there.
I dreamed again
and tried to live to put that dream to work,
but stronger louder voices came and
laid in wait to undermine
and override the vision
with their own.
Now charts and diagrams of window seats
of lofts awith rounded glass
and herbal scents and rafters;
of fertile gardens to be hoed
and wood piled high against the storm,
and lamplights' tender glow against the
butternuts o'erflowing on the floor
are buried 'neath a five mile stretch of
road
which crossed my land and laid it bare.
Should my feet stray and trespass there
a flashing sign screams.. wrong way .. go
back!
Blackened concrete marks the spot.
A friend once softly said that
some dreams can't come true ..
And that I've found to be the case
but sadly, some dreams do.

Marilyn Morin
Wendell Depot, MA

(printed by Greenfield Recorder, editorial page - Jan. 1984)

Mountains; stately, true.
Face of stone stands by.
With aid stands anew,
Casts shapes on the sky.

Works of man stand fast,
Where rocky peaks swell.
None will long last.
None stand as well.

Below the valley fears,
Voices cry out unheard.
Flood without tears.
Care for the birds.

Fish swim - we play.
Lost town - who prays?
"New age," we say,
"Sunshine - same rays."

Knowledge lost is gone,
Just as night at dawn.
But unlike new day,
No one shows the way.

In things of age are strength.
In things of memory are hopes.
Beyond these is truth.
Still we remember.

Never to forget.

by
John Ouderkick

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Local Residents Protest

A group from Wendell joined at least 50 Franklin County residents in a demonstration at the Greenfield IRS office on June 12 to protest Congress sending aid to the Nicaraguan contras.

Some participants went inside the office to protest the IRS role in collecting tax dollars for undermining the elected government in Nicaragua. Others remained outside, holding signs and singing songs of support. The action coincided with a U.S. House of Representative's vote to send $27 million in "non-lethal"aid to the CIA-backed contras. Demonstrators denounced the "non-lethal" aid because any aid will free up contra money for weapons. Also, the U.S. money may be used by the contras for military "advisors", troop transport, and other military necessities.

Within half an hour, Greenfield and state police arrived to remove the demonstrators from the IRS. The 24 inside the IRS office were arrested and later that day arraigned at Franklin County Courthouse on charges of trespassing. Three Wendell residents were among them. Five of the arrestees were held without right to bail, either for refusing to give their names or to walk into the courtroom. The three from Wendell cooperated and were released. There were no incidents between police and protesters. Members from each side praised the other for its good conduct.

This action was undertaken as part of a nationwide "Pledge of Resistance" which is supported in the western Mass. area by the American Friends Service Committee, church organizations and citizens groups. "Pledge" signers pledge to engage in acts of nonviolent civil disobedience if the U.S. significantly escalates its intervention in Central America.

Franklin County groups of "Pledge" signers and supporters participate in civil disobedience actions and join legal demonstrations like the one on Greenfield Common to protest the aid vote on June 12. Wendell groups also provide movies, lecturers and educational outreach to local communities. If you would like to participate or support this work for peaceful U.S. policy in Central America, contact Parker Cleveland at 544-2668.

Sandy Bailey

Pamphlet Offered to Landlords

The Franklin County Regional Housing Authority's Housing Services program announces the publication of "It's your Business: A Guide for Landlords" This manual is the first of a series of reference works which will be prepared for landlords, homeowners and tenants over the next two years.

Copies of this publication will be made available to Franklin County landlords free of charge.

Among the topics to be covered in It's Your Business are: How to select a tenant, Types of tenancies, Rent and security deposit regulations, Building Code (Conditions) requirements, Tenant rights, The eviction process, Sources of Financial assistance.

The book is intended as a reference manual and not a substitute for legal advice. The Franklin Community Action Corporation will release a companion guide outlining tenant rights and responsibilities next month.

The Housing Services Program also provides technical assistance for landlords and tenants and a mediation service for the resolution of housing disputes.

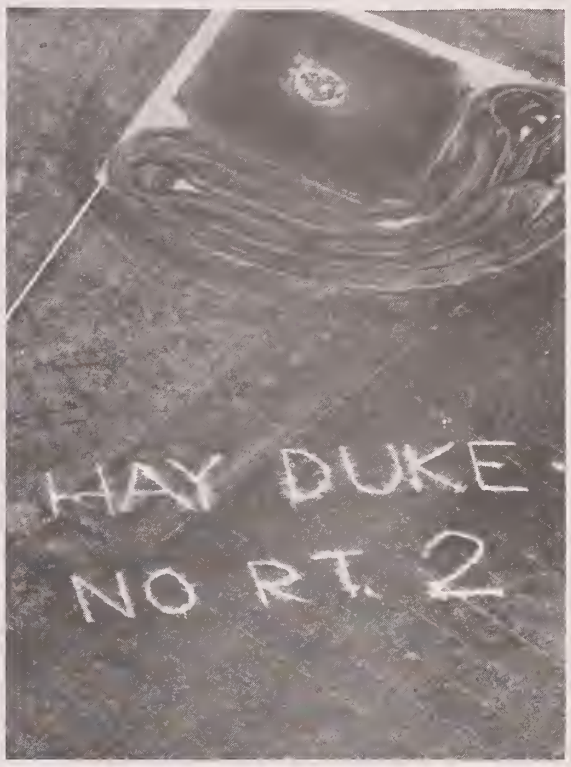
For further information, please contact: John Fisher, Housing Services Coordinator, 413-774-4381 or 863-9530.

Successful Fundraisers trigger new ideas

Bear Mountain Preservation fundraiser Anne Zak reports that the Full Moon Coffee Houses at the Wendell Town Hall brought in approximately $2,000, a very nice return! The fund-raising committee is now working on a gala Mexican Dinner for Sept. 14th to be held in the Town Hall at a reasonable price. There will be Spanish guitar music and delicious authentic Mexican cooking--something for all Wendell to look forward to in its ongoing fight to save the State Forest from a Rte. 2 relocation.

BEAR HUGS, Gov. ducks at Democratic State Issues Convention in Springfield in May. The Rt. 2 Coalition mascot obtained credentials along with several other members and distributed leaflets questioning the Governor's sincerity on environmental protection.

Al Giordano and the Route 2 Bear



OUTFIELD ACTION -- This message, reportedly inscribed under cover of darkness before a visit to Greenfield by Gov. Dukakis, makes its point both clearly and emphatically.

Hayduke's Unclaimed Children Say It With Lime

As Governor Michael "Duke" Dukakis descended by helicopter into Greenfield, Massachusetts on the morning of May 7, 1985, he was greeted by what may be the largest political graffiti ever. Written across right field of the Greenfield Senior High School baseball field was the message "Hay Duke - No Rt. 2", each letter measuring 15 by 20 feet.

The message alludes to the Governor's 1983 decision to re-route a six mile section of Route 2 through rugged Bear Mountain and the Wendell State Forest. State and national environmental organizations object, including the Governor's own advisory council to the state's Department of Fisheries and Wildlife.

"Hayduke's Unclaimed Children" took responsibility for the graffiti, and obtained an aerial photograph just minutes before the Governor's landing for release to the media. Employees of Greenfield Department of Public Works tried frantically, but in vain, to erase the message with an assortment of rakes.

The ecologically-sound graffiti was printed with 700 pounds of lime, a spokesperson said,"in order to help the field in its constant battle with acid rain." This method was chosen in the spirit of killing two birds with one stone, lime that is.

Robert Streeter

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Pesticide Update

When I heard that the State was planning to reduce Wendell's reimbursement for Wendell State Forest land by some $55,000 (about 10% of our budget) an odd image leapt to mind. That, in addition to the Commonwealth's South Bank Alignment for the relocation of Route Two and the on-going battle over local oversight of pesticide use, it feels as though Wendell is being escorted, resisting all the way, onto the pool table of Big Duke's Taverns. I half expect the Department of Defense to find Bear Mountain a suitable, potatoless alternate site for their Hawley-Ashfield antenna farm.

Although it may appear to the casual and jaundiced eye to be dormant, a flash in the pan and all that, Wendell's odyssey towards some form of local regulation of pesticide application is moving along. The Annual Town Meeting appropriated $500 for the research and drafting of a new bylaw. The first step will be to reach a rather good understanding of the Supreme Judicial Court's decision on Wendell's previous regulations, and to tailor the new enactments to conform to the Justices' interpretation of the powers of a Town in this matter. Considering the ambiguity of some portions of the decision, this will be no mean task. The goal is to develop a regulation that will push at the limits of the SJC decision, without unduly risking another lawsuit, while defining the Town's role as one it is both able and willing to pursue. It is hoped that a Pesticide Bylaw will be ready for the Town's consideration no later than the next Annual Town Meeting.

The Selectboard may apply a bit of friendly persuasion upon the Massachusetts Audubon Society to convince it to include a model bylaw within its work on a broad-brush Pesticide Reform Bill. Since our Special Town Counsel Judith Pickett may be one of the consultants retained by the Society to work on this project, we may have more effect than otherwise (foreby our wearing all the Turkey Vulture, Blue Heron and Eastern Loon teeshirts we can muster).

What with the Millers River dropping below the level conoeists consider "bony", and the trout supposedly frolicking in the cool waters off the Whetstone and Osgood Brooks, and summer starting with the longest day of the year and going rapidly downhill, it is certainly understandable that the Druids resisted the urge to create Stonehenge for as long as they did.

Jim Slavas

Arts Council News

For those of you who don't know....the Wendell Arts Council is a five member council here to promote and encourage the arts! Its primary purpose is to disperse Wendell's share of the Mass. Arts Lottery funds generated from Megabucks. Wendell gets $1000 a year in two $500 allocations. We take applications from individual artists and from organizations. In the past we've helped to fund a number of programs at Swift River School, such as the "artist in residence", storyteller Tom McCabe and the musical composition workshop with flutist William Wittig & Steve Schoenberg which incorporated a mime performance by Jody Scalise this last school year. The guidelines for the funding give us quite a lot of freedom, so we are by no means limited to performances. For instance, we could use the money to offer classes, to purchase a work of art, to organize a museum trip, to help an individual get published.... If you have any ideas as to how you would like to see this money spent, contact one of us!! (Phyllis Lawrence-Slavas, Anne Diemand, Pat Judice, Brenda Vincent, or Teri Nelson-Koehler)

This fall, the Arts Council has approved 3 applications. The first will enable Swift River School to participate in the Cultural Resources Program. This is a collaborative program that links 11 schools with the Arts Council of Franklin County. The Council will work with art teachers, classroom teachers, artists, school administrators to plan and implement field trips, workshops, and exhibits. The focus of this year's program will be on drawing and film animation.

The second application approved a performance by the Pioneer Folklore Society for a community folk concert. Debbie Fish and Diane Sanabria will be performing in the Town Hall sometime in October. This duo offers a spirited blend of old-time, country and bluegrass styles as well as a sampling of traditional songs written by and for women in country and folk styles.

And finally, the Arts Council will be sponsoring a performance this fall at the Swift River School by Waffles (Joshua Jay) and Sunshine (Court Dorsey) as they clown and sing their way through a lively children's cabaret version of Shel Silverstein's poems from the book, Where the Sidewalk Ends. So keep your eyes open for later postings of these events! We hope you will be able to join us!

A Visit to a 'Free' Man

I checked in on Apollo Blues to hear the details of his trial stemming from the marijuana raid on August 24, 1984 at the barn in the center of town.

I had heard, through the Wendell grapevine, that he had been found not guilty on all charges and therefore, expected to see one gleeful and satisfied man.

I walked past the impressive stonework, glad to get a closer look at that project which I've been carefully watching and admiring since early spring. The activities of the hard working people at the old barn never seem to cease and I simply can not drive past there without fondly turning an eye to inspect their amazing skills.

I was lucky to have found Apollo home. The following day he would have been gone to work in reparation for the over $4000 in lawyer's costs which incured during the trial.

The mood in which we spoke was sobering reality. The judicial system is fatiguing. After seven court appearances for both Apollo and Leeba who also faced charges, seven lost days of work and ten months of worry and frustration, a verdict of not guilty was relieving yet costly.

The whole affair seems ludricrous and disproportionate when you weigh the enormous emotional and financial drain against the "crime" of growing marijuana.

One of the saddest aspects of this story concerns Bones who when faced with the same charges did not seek private council, but was defended by a court appointed lawyer. After some plea bargaining, he pleaded guilty to some of the lesser charges. He was fined and placed on probation after receiving a suspended three month sentence. More importantly, those charges are on his permanent record.

As I drove away, I thought about the book, Watership Down, and those fat domesticated rabbits. Every now and then one got taken away. All the other bunnies sighed in relief and got smug because it wasn't one of them. It strikes me that everyone who condones pot use, whether one personally smokes or not, is like those rabbits and is willing to ignore the fact that every now and then a friend, relative or neighbor gets taken away. If he is a smart bunny and figures out the ropes, he gets to come back.

It all seems so absurd when you consider it's all because of marijuana.

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